

# NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Forest Service

Cibola National Forest  
Mountainair Ranger District  
PO Box 69  
Mountainair, NM 87036-0069

Tel: (505) 847-2990  
Fax: (505) 854-2238



## Fire Restrictions Begin as Campgrounds Open

**Mountainair, NM - April 7, 2008:** Stage I fire restrictions will be going into effect on the Mountainair Ranger District beginning on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The district did not receive the significant snowfall this past winter that other parts of the state received. This has been made very apparent in the last few weeks as fuel moisture levels continue dropping and fire danger increases. **The current fire danger rating stands at HIGH**, but with little to no significant precipitation, this level is expected to rise to VERY HIGH or even EXTREME in the near future. This could elevate restrictions to stage II (no campfires), stage III (partial closure) or stage IV (full closure) at a later date.

Stage I restrictions are the first step in the fire restriction ladder. This means that the forest will remain open; however, campfires will be restricted to campgrounds only. With this in mind, the district will be opening roads and campgrounds throughout the forest. Roads to be open on April 10<sup>th</sup> include FR321, FR245 and FR253. Campgrounds that will also open on April 10<sup>th</sup> include Fourth of July, New Canyon and Capilla Peak. These are areas that had been closed through the winter season. Red Canyon Campground is expected to open by April 18<sup>th</sup>. All opening dates are **subject to change without notice**. Please phone the Mountainair Ranger District at 847-2990, Monday to Friday in advance of your visit. The Ojo Peak Fire Rehabilitation Area remains under emergency closure and is not expected to be open this summer season. This includes most areas south of Red Canyon Campground, North of Pine Shadow Trailhead and west of the forest boundary on FR275.

Remember that Fire Restrictions will be in effect soon after openings. Campfires, charcoal grills and stove fires will be **prohibited** on national forest lands, except in Forest Service developed campgrounds where grills and fire rings are provided. Smoking is allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter and free of all flammable material. Fireworks are always prohibited on all national forest lands.

For more information on road/campground openings or fire restrictions please contact the Mountainair Ranger District at 505-847-2990 or email [atperca@fs.fed.us](mailto:atperca@fs.fed.us).

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